

## AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

## VICTORIAN OFFICE

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CATALOGUE NUMBER 6201.2

THE LABOUR FORCE - VICTORIA

AUGUST 1978

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## INQUIRIES

Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made by telephoning Melbourne 63 0181, extension 6494.

## MAIN FEATURES

The size of the Victorian labour force in August 1978 was estimated to be 1,723,800, almost the same level as in August 1977. The civilian population aged 15 years and over increased by an estimated 48,200, to 2,804,900, over the same period however.

The number of females in the Victorian labour force fell by an estimated 9,900 between May and August 1978. Over the same period the number of females not in the labour force rose by an estimated 24,500.

The average duration of unemployment was found to be 22.4 weeks in August. An estimated 11,900 persons had been unemployed for 52 weeks or more.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

## INTRODUCTION

1. This is the first edition of a monthly publication showing labour force data for Victoria. It contains estimates derived from the population survey conducted throughout Australia each month by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Prior to February 1978 the survey was conducted on a quarterly basis in the months of February, May, August, and November each year.

## THE POPULATION SURVEY

2. The Survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 6,500 houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.) and covers about one half of one per cent of the Victorian population. The information is obtained from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers, the interviews being conducted during the two weeks beginning on the Monday between the 6th and 12th of each month. The information obtained relates to the week prior to the interview (i.e. the survey week). Before February 1978 the interviews were spread over four weeks, chosen so that the survey weeks generally fell within the limits of the calendar month.

## REVISION OF SERIES

3. Since February 1978 survey estimates have been based on population estimates derived from the 1976 Population Census, adjusted for under-enumeration. They were obtained by using a new sample and revised questionnaire. Estimates back to August 1974 have been revised on the new basis and are not comparable with Victorian estimates contained in Labour Force publications issued by the ABS Canberra Office prior to February 1978.

## SCOPE

4. All persons aged fifteen years and over are included in the survey except the following: members of the permanent defence forces; certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations; non-Australians on tour or holidaying in Australia; and members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

## DEFINITIONS

5. The labour force category to which a person is assigned depends on his actual activity (i.e. whether working, looking for work, etc.) during the survey week. The definitions conform closely to the international standard definitions recommended by the ILO.

6. Employed persons comprise all those aged fifteen years and over who, during the survey week:

- (a) worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (including employees, employers and self-employed persons); or
- (b) worked for fifteen hours or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. unpaid family helper); or
- (c) were employees who had a job but were not at work and were: on paid leave; on leave without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the survey week; stood down without pay because of bad weather



or plant breakdown at their place of employment for less than four weeks, up to the end of the survey week; on strike or locked out; on workers' compensation and expected to be returning to their job; or receiving wages or salary while undertaking full-time study; or

(d) were employers or self-employed persons who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

7. Unemployed persons are those aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the survey week, and

(a) had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the survey week and;

(i) were available for work in the survey week, or would have been available except for temporary illness (i.e. lasting for less than four weeks to the end of the survey week); or

(ii) were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the survey week and would have started in the survey week if the job had been available then;

or (b) were waiting to be called back to a full-time or part-time job from which they had been stood down without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the survey week (including the whole of the survey week) for reasons other than bad weather or plant breakdown.

8. The labour force comprises all persons who, during the survey week, were employed or unemployed, as defined in paragraphs 6 and 7.

9. Full-time workers are those who usually work 35 hours a week or more and others who, although usually part-time workers, worked 35 hours or more during the survey week. Part-time workers are those who usually work less than 35 hours a week and who did so during the survey week. When recording hours of work, fractions of an hour are disregarded.

10. Persons not in the labour force are those who, during the survey week, were not in the categories "employed" or "unemployed".

#### RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

11. Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they, and the movements derived from them, are subject to sampling variability; that is they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included in the survey. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

12. Standard errors of survey estimates and month to month movements are as follows:

#### STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES - VICTORIA

('000)

Size of estimate	4.5	5.0	6.0	10.0	20.0	50.0	100.0	200.0	300.0	500.0	1,000.0	2,000.0
Standard error	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.9	2.7	3.5	4.4	5.0	5.8	7.0	8.4

#### STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES OF MONTH TO MONTH MOVEMENTS - VICTORIA

('000)

Size of larger estimate	4.5	5.0	6.0	10.0	20.0	50.0	100.0	200.0	300.0	500.0	1,000.0	2,000.0
Standard error	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.7	2.3	2.8	3.3	3.7	4.2	4.9	5.6

#### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

13. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications, available on request, which are issued by the ABS Canberra Office:

Unemployment (preliminary estimates) (6201.0)

The labour force (6203.0)

Information paper: questionnaires used in the labour force survey (6232.0)

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in the Catalogue of publications (1101.0), which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

#### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

\* Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses

.. Not applicable

n.a. Not available

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

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TABLE 1. VICTORIA - CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS (a)

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Month	Employed ( <sup>1</sup> 000)	Unemployed		Labour force		Not in labour force ( <sup>1</sup> 000)	Civilian population aged 15 years and over ( <sup>1</sup> 000)
		Number ( <sup>1</sup> 000)	Per cent of labour force (b)	Number ( <sup>1</sup> 000)	Per cent of popula- tion (c)		
MALES							
1977 - May	1,037.8	43.5	4.0	1,081.3	80.0	270.0	1,351.3
August	1,036.2	41.9	3.9	1,078.2	79.6	277.0	1,355.2
1978 - May (d)	1,045.3	45.6	4.2	1,091.0	79.4	282.2	1,373.2
June	1,044.5	46.0	4.2	1,090.6	79.3	284.8	1,375.4
July	1,045.1	43.3	4.0	1,088.4	79.1	288.4	1,376.8
August	1,035.8	51.6	4.7	1,087.4	78.9	290.7	1,378.1
MARRIED FEMALES							
1977 - May	397.6	18.0	4.3	415.6	44.9	510.5	926.1
August	389.9	22.9	5.6	412.9	44.8	508.0	920.8
1978 - May (d)	381.4	26.5	6.5	408.0	44.6	507.0	915.0
June	381.3	24.9	6.1	406.2	44.2	513.6	919.9
July	380.2	23.6	5.8	403.8	44.1	511.7	915.5
August	381.3	23.0	5.7	404.3	43.9	516.3	920.5
OTHER FEMALES (e)							
1977 - May	202.2	27.3	11.9	229.5	48.8	241.2	470.8
August	207.8	25.1	10.8	233.0	48.5	247.8	480.7
1978 - May (d)	210.9	27.4	11.5	238.3	47.1	267.4	505.7
June	210.4	24.0	10.2	234.4	46.5	269.3	503.7
July	213.5	22.7	9.6	236.3	46.4	273.4	509.7
August	206.7	25.4	11.0	232.1	45.9	274.1	506.2
ALL FEMALES							
1977 - May	599.8	45.3	7.0	645.1	46.2	751.7	1,396.8
August	597.8	48.1	7.4	645.8	46.1	755.7	1,401.5
1978 - May (d)	592.3	54.0	8.4	646.3	45.5	774.4	1,420.7
June	591.7	48.9	7.6	640.6	45.0	782.9	1,423.5
July	593.7	46.4	7.2	640.1	44.9	785.0	1,425.1
August	588.0	48.4	7.6	636.4	44.6	790.4	1,426.8
PERSONS							
1977 - May	1,637.7	88.7	5.1	1,726.4	62.8	1,021.7	2,748.1
June August	1,634.0	90.0	5.2	1,724.0	62.5	1,032.7	2,756.7
1978 - May (d)	1,637.7	99.6	5.7	1,737.3	62.2	1,056.6	2,793.9
June	1,636.2	94.9	5.5	1,731.2	61.9	1,067.7	2,798.9
July	1,638.8	89.7	5.2	1,728.5	61.7	1,073.4	2,801.9
August	1,623.8	100.0	5.8	1,723.8	61.5	1,081.1	2,804.9

(a) For scope of estimates see paragraph 4. For definitions see paragraphs 5 to 10.

(b) The number of unemployed in each group as a percentage of the labour force in the same group.

(c) The labour force in each group as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over in the same group.

(d) See paragraph 2 for details of change in the timing of the survey.

(e) Never married, widowed, and divorced.

TABLE 2. VICTORIA - CIVILIAN LABOUR FORCE (a) BY AGE, AUGUST 1978

Age group (years)	Number ('000)				Per cent of population (b)			
	Males	Married females	All females	Persons	Males	Married females	All females	Persons
15 - 19	105.7	5.0	91.8	197.5	60.2	51.8	54.9	57.6
20 - 24	143.2	48.0	114.3	257.5	89.0	60.4	71.5	80.3
25 - 34	283.0	123.1	156.6	439.5	96.0	48.3	52.3	74.0
35 - 44	216.9	115.8	130.7	347.6	96.2	58.8	59.7	78.2
45 - 54	194.7	80.1	95.5	290.3	91.7	45.9	46.9	69.8
55 - 59	76.7	21.1	28.2	104.9	83.2	28.6	30.3	56.6
60 - 64	49.6	7.8	12.0	61.6	68.5	14.2	15.3	40.9
65 and over	17.6	*	7.3	25.0	12.2	*	3.5	7.1
Total	1,087.4	404.3	636.4	1,723.8	78.9	43.9	44.6	61.5

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. See page 1, paragraph 4. (b) The labour force in each group as a percentage of the civilian population in the same group (the labour force participation rate).

TABLE 3. VICTORIA - ASPECTS OF UNEMPLOYMENT, AUGUST 1978

Particulars	Number ('000)			Unemployment rate (per cent)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Total unemployed	51.6	48.4	100.0	4.7	7.6	5.8
Melbourne Statistical Division	36.7	34.6	71.3	4.7	7.2	5.7
Rest of Victoria	14.9	13.8	28.7	4.8	8.8	6.2
Married	16.9	23.0	39.8	2.3	5.7	3.5
Not married (a)	34.8	25.4	60.2	10.2	11.0	10.5
Aged 15 - 19 years	15.9	16.2	32.1	15.1	17.7	16.3
" 20 - 24 years	10.9	9.9	20.8	7.6	8.6	8.1
" 25 and over	24.8	22.3	47.1	3.0	5.2	3.7
Born in Australia	35.5	33.7	69.2	4.7	7.5	5.8
Born outside Australia -	16.1	14.7	30.8	4.8	7.8	5.8
Arrived before 1971	11.6	8.7	20.3	4.1	5.8	4.7
" 1971 to 1978	4.5	6.0	10.5	8.1	15.6	11.1
Looking for -						
Full-time work	47.6	33.7	81.3	4.7	7.9	5.6
Part-time work	4.1	14.7	18.7	6.1	6.9	6.7
Duration of unemployment -						
Under 2 weeks	6.2	5.6	11.7	..	..	..
2 and under 4 weeks	5.9	7.0	12.9	..	..	..
4 " " 8 "	8.7	6.5	15.1	..	..	..
8 " " 13 "	6.8	5.3	12.1	..	..	..
13 " " 26 "	10.5	8.1	18.7	..	..	..
26 " " 52 "	6.5	11.1	17.6	..	..	..
26 weeks and over	13.6	16.0	29.5	..	..	..
52 " " " "	7.1	4.9	11.9	..	..	..

## AVERAGE DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (weeks)

All unemployed persons	20.9	24.0	22.4	..	..	..
(a) Never married, widowed, and divorced,						